(c) All efforts are being made to ensure that the delivery of the SU-30 MKI version of aircraft starts from October 2001 and is completed by 2003.

Shortage of Rations with India-UN Peacekeepers in Sierra Leone

1892. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was reported shortage of rations with Indian and other U.N. peacekeepers, surrounded in Sierra Leone;

(b) if so, the steps taken to supply necessary rations to the trapped peacekeepers; and

(c) the efforts made by the U.N. authorities in this regard and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Indian and other peacekeepers in the UNAMSIL Mission, Sierra Leone, involved in a stand-off with rebel forces in that country for some period, had adequate rations during the period of the stand-off.

Accidents of IAF Aircrafts

† l893. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. NASTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of IAF aircrafts have met with accidents during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of aircrafts met with accident in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, separately;

(c) the number of. pilot died in these accidents;

(d) the number of aircrafts lost during the Kargil war; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(e) the names and the number of aircraft which were damaged most in the normal accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise details are as under:

Aircraft lost in accidents

1997-98	17
1998-99	23
1999-2000	27

(c) 34 pilots died in these accidents.

(d) 3 aircrafts were lost during the Kargil operations.

(e) A maximum of 38 MIG 21 aircrafts have been lost in these accidents.

Problems Faced by Indian Soldiers Serving in Sierra Leone

1894. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI R. K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian soldiers serving in the United Nations' Mission in Sierra Leone are not getting the letters written by their families;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian soldiers are not receiving their salaries which are paid by U.N.;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to solve the difficulties being faced by the Indian soldiers serving in Sierra Leone?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There was a disruption in the mail service